DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.90g 12 Non-aggression/2 FOR Tel.26, 10 a.m.

FROM Iraq (Knabenshue) DATED Oct.4, 1935
TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Non-aggression pact between Iraq, Turkey and Iran with adherence of Afghanistan thereto, and treaty of arbitration between Iraq and Iran.

Announcement of agreement reached at Geneva to negotiate -.

767.90H 12 NON-AGGRESSION/1

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.90h/9 FOR #906

FROM Turkey (Shaw) DATED Feb.3, 1936

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Decision of Afghanistan to adhere to the pact of non-aggression, consultation and non-interference recently initialled at Geneva by representatives of Turkey, Iran and Iraq. Signature of pact will not take place until Iran and Iraq have settled certain boundary disputes.

767.90H 12 NON AGGRESSION /2

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 711.90h/63 FOR #1461

FROM U.S.S.R. (Bullitt) DATED March 17, 1936.
TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Pact of non-aggression between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Afghanistan positively will not consent to the addition to the - of clauses providing for mutual assistance.

b

767.90H 12-NON-AGGRESSION/3

767.90h/12- Non Aggression 3

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.90g 12 Non-aggression/45 FOR #299

FROM Turkey (Washington) DATED July 14,1937

TO

NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Saadabad Treaty. Near Eastern Pact.
The Pact of non-aggression was signed by Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Turkey at royal palace of Saadabad, Teheran, on July 8 and will be known as the --. Later a Council of the Eastern Entente was created to discussiquestions affecting the common interests of the signatories and to coordinate action under the treaty.

767.90H 12 NON-AGGRESSION/4

Istanbul, Turkey, July 14, 1937.

No. 899

Subject: The Saadabad Treaty: Pact of Friendship and Nonaggression between Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

767.90H12 n-ag

To 760H.72, Non-Aggression/45

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 872 of May 19, 1937, in which reference was made to the anticipated signature by Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Turkey of a quadripartite pact of non-aggression, and to inform the Department that the local press reports that the accord was signed by the Foreign Ministers of the countries concerned at Teheran on July 8, 1937. Having been signed at the royal palace of Saadabad, it is understood that the pact will henceforth be known as the Saadabad Treaty.

Respe

Press comment on the progress of the negotiations which preceded the signature of the treaty, and later on the importance and significance of the treaty itself, has been both voluminous and enthusiastic. The treaty is hailed not only as evidence that peaceful and friendly means have been successful in resolving disputes which have "for centuries" caused mutual distrust and ill-will to mark the relations between several of the four countries involved, but also as a monument to international security which has been erected by states which not long ago were under the domination and influence of powers which today are unable to settle their own differences in similar fashion.

An examination of the ten articles of the treaty, as published in the Turkish press, reveals that provision is made for no new departure in Turkey's foreign policy, which has been described as "one of friendship for all, but alliance with none". The treaty definitely provides for support of the League of Nations and for recognition of the obligations undertaken as a result of adherence to the so-called Kellogg Pact -- provisions not without significance at a time when European affairs are in their present unclarified state. (During the past six months Turkey has apparently lost no opportunity to affirm its loyalty to the League and to the cause of world peace).

The treaty further provides for the inviolability of mutual frontiers, for non-aggression as defined in Article IV, for abstention from interference in the internal affairs of the other signatories, for recourse to the League in the case of aggression by one of the signatories, and for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It will remain in force for five years from the date of signature, and for an

additional

additional period of five years in case of non-denunciation.

After the treaty had been signed the press reports that a "Council of the Eastern Entente" was created to "discuss questions affecting the common interests of the signatories and to coordinate action under the treaty". The Iranian Foreign Minister having been unanimously elected as the Council's first president, proposed a resolution whereby the new Entente would support Iran's candidacy for Turkey's seat on the League Council which becomes vacant next September, and would thereafter arrange for the reservation of the seat for other members of the Entente, in alphabetical order. The resolution likewise provided for obtaining recognition of the fact that Turkey would be eligible to have a "semi-permanent" seat in the Council, so that, as "a European and Asiatic country, it would thus be permitted to continue its useful activities". The resolution, according to the local press, was adopted forthwith and was signed by the four Foreign Ministers.

The Embassy is aware of no new consideration or circumstance which would render advisable an alteration of its appreciation of the importance of the treaty as expressed in Despatch No. 272 of May 19, 1937 -- it is still considered by authoritative opinion to be the normal complement in Asia to the steps toward bon voisinage which have already been taken in Europe by means of the Balkan Entente.

Respectfully yours,

S. Walter Washington,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:
1/ - Translation of article from ULUS of July 8, 1937;

2/

2/ - Translation of article from LA REPUBLIQUE of July 10, 1957;

3/ - Translation of article from LE JOURNAL D'ORIENT of July 11, 1957;

4/ - Clipping from LE JOURNAL D'ORIENT of July 11, 1957.

Copies sent to Baghdad, Teheran, Geneva and Calcutta.

A TRUE COPY OF THE SIGNED ORIGINAL.

720/725

JIR:mmj

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. , dated July 14, 1937, from American Embassy at Istanbul.

SOURCE: ULUS,
No. 173,
July 8, 1937.

TRANSLATION

THE EASTERN PACT

The telegrams originating in Teheran on the subject of the non-aggression pact which is on the point of being signed by Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Turkey announce for the partisans of peace the happiest event of the year 1937. These four States, between which there exists no real difference of interests, have smoothed the way by mutual understanding for disposing of all controversial questions which thus far have delayed the signature of such a pact: The Shah-in-Shah in Iran and Ataturk in Turkey have succeeded in resolving in short order all those problems which for centuries have separated their two neighboring countries. The frontier dispute between Afghanistan and Iran has been settled by Turkish arbitration and there is no reason why similar differences between Iraq and Iran may not be terminated in the same fashion.

The Oriental Pact extends from the shores of the Mediterranean to the interior of Asia, the regime of reciprocal guarantee, of peace and of security. There exists two principal reasons why these nations should desire to guarantee non-aggression between each other, and to avoid any action which may compromise their security. The first reason is that all four have no other end than that of realizing for their respective countries prosperity and the creation of perfected modern institutions. They therefore wish security and tranquillity. The second reason is that these four nations are definitely committed to the ideal of maintaining national liberty, peace and international confidence. If one takes into consideration the ante-bellum relations of the countries which will be brought together by the Eastern Pact, one will easily understand how great has been their evolution which has led up to the ceremony which will shortly take place at Teheran. These nations, forced to exist deprived of all their rights in their own territories which were divided into different zones of influence, have realized in two generations the greatest progress known to history. Miracles were necessary for them to escape from slavery and national death. In organizing their internal policy they heeded the advice which comes to them from the past in the form of lessons of unhappiness and they have transformed themselves into mature nations worthy of serving as an example to others.

At

At a moment when the majority of Western nations were not able to solve a single one of the important problems which faced them, these countries who are about to sign the Eastern Pact have found means to liquidate, while remaining faithful to the pacific principles of the League of Nations, all the complex difficulties which have endured between them for centuries. Nations which were believed to be vowed to mutual enmity are now to be joined together by the closest brotherly ties of good neighborship.

The Eastern Pact emerges as the natural result of this development of friendly relations which has marked the last years. Let us congratulate ourselves.

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 299, dated July 14, 1937, from American Embassy at Istanbul.

SOURCE: LA RÉPUBLIQUE,
No. 4404,
July 10, 1937.

TRANSLATION

THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASIATIC PACT CONCLUDED AT TEHERAN.

One may consider the Asiatic Pact as the first treaty to be concluded by completely free Eastern States on their own account. Turkey, whose foreign policy is designed solely for the maintenance of friendly relations, in the signature of the Pact signed yesterday at Teheran, as in the Balkan Entente, played a role of the utmost importance and has thereby rendered a new and signal service to world peace. This event may justly make us proud.

The pact of friendship and non-aggression among Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Turkey was solemnly signed yesterday at Teheran at the famous palace of Sad'Abad by the Foreign Ministers of the four States concerned. This pact, which has been pending for many long years, possesses a profound historical significance. There can be no doubt but that it will be hailed with great satisfaction not only by the interested countries but also by all European States which are animated by good will.

The Eastern Pact, all the phases of which the entire world has followed with a great if silent interest, is one of the manifestations -- unhappily becoming more and more rare -- of good will and sincerity between nations. The four States of the Near East have succeeded after a serious effort in discarding the differences and discussions which have held them apart for years, and have promised -- by virtue of the accord which has just been signed -- to see to it that their relations are founded upon sentiments of sincere friendliness and bon voisinage.

Furthermore, it would be in no sense an error to state that the relations between Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Turkey have always been marked by a friendly cordiality. Iran has had difficulties with Iraq and Afghanistan in relation to its frontiers between these two States. It is only natural that the solution of these difficulties, which are an inheritance centuries old, could not have been arrived at

within

within a few days. The three countries are perfectly aware that the good-neighbor spirit is possible only when frontiers have been clearly delimited, and one must greet with satisfaction their disposal of this problem. Differences between Iran and Afghanistan were smoothed out by the good offices of a Turkish military mission, during conversations which at no time exceeded friendly limits. It is learned with satisfaction that the Shatt-el-Arab dispute has finally been solved by a treaty signed at Teheran by Iran and Iraq.

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch No. 298, dated July 14, 1937.
from American Embassy at Istanbul.

SOURCE: LE JOURNAL D'ORIENT,
No. 6606,
July 11, 1937.

TRANSLATION

THE TREATY OF SAD'ABAD

Text of the Treaty of Sad'Abad, signed at Teheran by Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Turkey on July 9, 1937, as reported in the Turkish press.

Preamble:

His Majesty the Shah-in-Shah of Iran, His Majesty the King of Afghanistan, His Majesty the King of Iraq, and the President of the Turkish Republic,

desirous of contributing by all means in their power to the maintenance of friendly relations and understanding between them,

animated by a desire to assure the peace and the security of the Near East by guarantees additional to those found in the Covenant of the League of Nations, and thus to contribute to general peace,

cognisant of their obligations undertaken by virtue of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War as an instrument of National Policy, signed at Paris, August 27, 1928, and of other treaties to which they are parties, and in harmony with the spirit of the Covenant of the League of Nations and of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War, have decided to conclude the present treaty and with this end in view, nominate:

His Majesty the Shah-in-Shah of Iran: His Excellency Enayetollah Samy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran,

His Majesty the King of Afghanistan: His Excellency Faiz Mohammed Han, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan,

His Majesty the King of Iraq: His Excellency Dr. Nadjial-Asil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq,

The President of the Turkish Republic: His Excellency Dr. Rustu Aras, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

Article I. The high contracting parties mutually undertake to pursue a policy of absolute abstention from interference in their respective internal affairs.

Article II.

Article II. The high contracting parties mutually undertake to respect the inviolability of their common frontiers.

Article III. The high contracting parties agree to confer on all international conflicts affecting their common interests.

Article IV. Each of the high contracting parties undertakes, in relation to the other parties, to abstain in all cases, either alone or in conjunction with one or more third powers, from any act of aggression directed against one of the other high contracting parties. The following shall be considered as acts of aggression:

1. A declaration of war,
2. Invasion by the armed forces of a State, even without a declaration of war, of the territory of another State,
3. Attack, by the land, naval or air forces of a State, even without a declaration of war, on the territory, battleships or aircraft of another State,
4. Direct or indirect aid or assistance to an aggressor.

The following shall not constitute acts of aggression:

1. The exercise of the right of legitimate defense, that is to say, resistance to an act of aggression such as is defined above,
2. Action undertaken in accordance with Article 16 of the Covenant of the League of Nations,
3. Action undertaken by reason of a decision taken by the Assembly of the Council of the League of Nations or in accordance with Paragraph 7 of Article 15 of the Covenant, provided that in the latter case such action is directed against the State which is the first to deliver the attack,
4. Aid or assistance to a State which is the victim of attack or invasion, or an act of war by one of the high contracting parties, contrary to the Treaty for the Renunciation of War signed at Paris on August 27, 1928.

Article V. Should one of the high contracting parties consider that a violation of Article IV of the present treaty has been or is on the point of being completed, it will immediately place the question before the Council of the League of Nations. The preceding provision will not compromise the right of the high contracting party involved to take such action as may be judged necessary in the circumstances.

Article VI. Should one of the high contracting parties undertake an act of aggression against a third power, another of the high contracting parties may denounce the present treaty without notice in so far as the aggressor is concerned.

Article VII. Each of the high contracting par ties mutually undertake to prevent within their frontiers the formation of armed bands, of associations or organizations seeking to overthrow the established institutions or to affect public order and security within the territory of another high contracting party.

Article VIII. The high contracting parties, having already recognized by virtue of the pact for the renunciation of war of August 27, 1928, that the regulation and solution of all differences or conflicts, of any nature or cause, which may arise between them, may not be adjusted except by pacific means, reaffirm this principle and declare that such differences shall be disposed of by such procedure as has been or will be provided by the high contracting parties.

Article IX. No Article of the present treaty may be interpreted as diminishing in any manner the obligations which each of the high contracting parties have assumed by virtue of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Article X. The present treaty, written in French and signed in quadruplicate, of which each of the high contracting parties has received one copy, is valid for five years. At the expiration of this period the treaty will be considered as having been renewed for an additional period of five years provided that one of the high contracting parties has not notified its intention to denounce the treaty six months previously. The treaty will continue in force between those powers which have not denounced it.

The present treaty will be ratified by each of the high contracting parties in conformity with their respective laws, and will be recorded with the League of Nations through the Secretariat, which will be requested to inform other States members of the League. Ratifications shall be deposited by each of the high contracting parties with the Iranian Government.

The present treaty will enter into force between any two interested powers as soon as ratified by them; it will enter into force, in so far as the other interested powers are concerned, progressively with the deposit of the ratifications. Each ratification will be immediately made known to the signatories by the Government of Iran.

Signed at the palace of Sad'Abad, July 8, 1937.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.90g12 Non Aggression/70 FOR Despatch #1220

FROM Iran (Engert) DATED January 25, 1938.
TO NAME

REGARDING: Ratification of the Saadabad Pact by the Afghan Parliament. Exchange of congratulatory telegrams between the respective Foreign Ministers.

wth

767.90H12 NON AGGRESSION/5

Central File: Decimal File 767.90H12, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Turkey And Afghanistan, Arbitration. Conciliation. Kellogg Anti-War Pact., Oct. 4, 1935 - January 25, 1938. October 4, 1935 - January 25, 1938. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111395002%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 21 June 2025.